

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 /076 W

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R 251425Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9717

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2732

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XR, VT, EG, SA

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN POSITION ON INTERNATIONALIZATION OF JERUSALEM

REF: CAIRO 1994

1. COUNSELOR OF EGYPTIAN EMBASSY TO HOLY SEE ASSURED US FEB. 25 THAT PRESIDENT SADAT'S STATEMENT TO "WASHINGTON POST" DOES REPRESENT A FIRM DECISION BY GOE TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONALIZATION OF JERUSALEM AND HOLY PLACES. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, GOE SEES NO OTHER FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND FEELS THAT ANY EVENTUAL INTERNATIONALIZATION SHOULD BE AFFECTED ON BASIS OF UN RESOLUTION OF 1948. SOURCE NOTED THAT DURING PARLIAMENTARY INTERROGATION FOLLOWING SADAT INTERVIEW, FORMIN

FAHMY STATED THAT GOE POSITION ON INTERNATIONALIZATION REFERRED TO WHOLE CITY OF JERUSALEM "WITH SPECIAL RESPECT FOR ARAB CITY AND HOLY PLACES". EGYPTIAN EMBASSY TO HOLY SEE NOT CLEAR JUST
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WHAT FAHMY MEANT BY ABOVE QUOTE AND THEY HAVE SOUGHT CLARIFI-

CATION FROM CAIRO BEFORE INFORMING VATICAN OF NEW GOE POSITION ON JERUSALEM. SOURCE OWN OPINION IS THAT FAHMY AIMED HIS REFERENCE TO "ARAB CITY AND HOLY PLACES" AT KING FAISAL BECAUSE OF HIS SPECIAL CONCERN FOR JERUSALEM'S FUTURE STATUS.

2.SOURCE STRESSED THAT IN HIS "WASHINGTON POST" INTERVIEW, SADAT SPEAKING ONLY FOR GOE, AND PLO'S VIEWS MAY NOT COINCIDE IN THIS REGARD. SOURCE MADE CLEAR THAT GOE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH PLO LIMITED MAINLY TO ADVISING THEM ON OCCASION AND TO ASSURING THAT PLO HAS A PLACE AT GEVENA TALKS.

3. EGYPTIAN EMBASSY FEELS REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT VATICAN WILL WELCOME SADAT'S LATEST POSITION ON JERUSALEM SINCE, IN THEIR VIEW, IT SHOULD HARMONIZE WITH VATICAN'S OWN REQUIREMENTS.

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